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E.O. 12958: N/A

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SUBJECT: REGIONAL ENERGY OFFICERS TRAINING SESSION, DECEMBER 6-7 IN  
SOFIA

REF: ANKARA 2419 Notal

11. (SBU) As agreed at the Istanbul Regional COM Energy Conference September 21, Embassy Sofia proposes to host a regional energy officers training session December 6-7. The purpose will be to offer training to energy officers on the geopolitics of energy in the European/Caspian region as well as on the fundamentals of pipeline politics, financing and commercial realities. The session will also allow officers to review, discuss, and implement outcomes of the Istanbul conference and to consider and adapt ways to work most effectively together to support U.S. goals in this area.

12. (SBU) Agenda: Post is developing an agenda in cooperation with EEB and EUR/ERA and using input from regional energy officers. The initial agenda envisions a first day of training offered by outside experts (industry, think tanks and EU representations) and a second day of internal talks. Suggestions on the agenda and organization of the discussion are invited and will be helpful over the coming weeks as we put this event together.

13. (SBU) Attendees: This meeting is intended for regional energy

officers and key Washington working level staff. Addressee posts include Caspian producer, transit and Nabucco/TGI countries. We have also included key European capitals as well as certain energy producing, consuming and transit countries mentioned, but not present, at the Istanbul Conference. If posts and/or Washington agencies have suggestions of others in the field or in Washington who should be included, please advise. Due to space considerations, we plan on no more than about 35 participants.

14. (U) Schedule: December 6: Energy Training Session from 8:45 to 5:00. December 7: Energy discussions from 8:45 to 4:00 pm.

15. (U) Action: Overseas Posts and Washington invitees are requested to advise on attendance as soon as possible, but no later than November 1. Post will provide more detailed information on the program, accommodations, etc., in early November. Embassy Sofia Action officers are: Kelly Adams-Smith, e-mail: adamssmithke@state.gov, telephone: 359-2-937-5220 and Dina Abaa-Ogley, e-mail: Abaa-Ogleydj@state.gov, telephone: 359-2-937-5252.

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